

Name: _____

DANTE'S INFERNO WEBQUEST

Create notes on the requisite background information for our study of Dante's *Inferno*. Use the links provided as a starting point to gather information on the author, Dante Alighieri, and his work, *The Divine Comedy*.

Lab Day #1

Dante Alighieri: A Poetic Descent into Hell

Use the following websites as a starting point to locate information concerning Dante's life and works:

<http://www.worldofdante.org/inferno1.html>

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/dante.htm>

<http://www.greatdante.net/commedia.html>

<http://www.greatdante.net/time.html>

The Man:

1. Give the dates of Dante's life.
2. Where did Dante call his home?
3. Who was the great love of Dante's life and the inspiration for many of his poetic heroines?
4. Who was Dante's wife? Did she have an influence on his literature?
5. What occupations did Dante hold during his lifetime?
6. To what political party did Dante belong?
7. What tragedy befell Dante in the year 1302? What powerful historical figure is involved?
8. What literary contemporaries are born during Dante's later life? Give a brief description of their accomplishments and at least one of their famous works. (use Google)

The Divine Comedy:

9. How long is the *Divine Comedy*? What sections is the work divided into?
10. What was the original title of the work?
11. Who suggested the addition to the title? And why?
12. What genre of poetry is this masterpiece? What else have you read (this year or any year) that also fits this genre? What are basic requirements of this type of work?
13. What is the purpose of the *Inferno* and its companion pieces?
14. What were some of the influences that helped to shape the *Divine Comedy*?
15. When was the *Inferno* published?
16. In what language was the poem published? What does mean about the text you will read?
17. What verse form was the poem written in? Define this form.
18. Give a brief summary of the *Inferno*.
19. What is the fictional date that the *Inferno* begins?
20. Explain the symbolic meaning of Dante, Virgil and Beatrice.

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Lab Day # 2

Virtual Tour: <http://www.worldofdante.org/inferno1.html>
<http://historylists.org/art/9-circles-of-hell-dantes-inferno.html>
<http://www.danteinferno.info/circles-of-hell/>

Take a tour of the *Inferno* on the websites above. Record the type of sinner Dante and his guide will encounter in each level. Be sure to read the text offered on each ring as some circles are host to more than one type of sinner. Also record any additional land marks that appear in each circle and explain their significance.